

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 29

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 21, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 70, Chesbro. Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would declare the month of November to annually be Lung Cancer Awareness Month and would encourage public officials and citizens to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

WHEREAS, Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women in California, the United States, and the world, this year killing more Americans than the next six cancers combined, including breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney, and melanoma cancers; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, approximately 174,470 Americans will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 162,460 Americans will be lost to lung cancer, including an estimated 13,870 Californians; and

WHEREAS, In the early stages of lung cancer, symptoms are usually not apparent. However, when symptoms occur, the cancer is often advanced. Symptoms of lung cancer include chronic cough, hoarseness, coughing up blood, weight loss and loss of appetite, shortness of breath, fever without a known reason, wheezing, repeated bouts of bronchitis or pneumonia, and chest pain; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no standard screening for early detection of lung cancer that greatly improves the survival rate; and

WHEREAS, The majority of new cases of lung cancer each year are in former smokers or persons who have never smoked; and

WHEREAS, Although there is a strong link between tobacco and lung cancer, there is a critical need for further research to understand the complex interrelationship of genetic, molecular, and other biologic processes to explain the development of lung cancer in those who have never smoked and the failure of the majority of heavy smokers to develop the disease; and

WHEREAS, Lung cancer research has been chronically underfunded in proportion to its public health impact resulting in a five-year survival rate, which has remained relatively unchanged over the last 30 years, while the survival rate for most other cancers has improved significantly; and

WHEREAS, A large portion of tobacco-related funding is used for purposes other than that of lung cancer research, yet lung cancer funding

from both public and private sources is negatively impacted by its association with smoking; and

WHEREAS, In order to build awareness and save lives, the Lung Cancer Alliance, a national patient advocacy group for lung cancer dedicated to helping build awareness of this disease, has proclaimed November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, It is only fitting and proper for the State of California, which has been a leader in antismoking legislation, to join the nation in designating November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month so that through better education and an increased attention to funding priorities, more cases of lung cancer may be found in the early stage, leading to the chance of long-term survival rate as high as 85 percent, and more options are available for treatment of the disease at all stages; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the month of November is annually designated Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the State of California and that public officials and the citizens of California are encouraged to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.